



Black Country **Advocacy Service**

**The
Children's
Society**



Who we are

The Children's Society Black Country Advocacy Service is an independent, confidential service in Sandwell, Wolverhampton and Walsall. It's for children and young people who are in care, leaving care, or who have a social worker.

When you are looked after or in the care of children's services, remember you have the right to:

- Have a say in decisions that affect your life.
- Be listened to and taken seriously.
- Use an advocate to help look after your rights.
- Not be hurt or abused.
- Be treated fairly, whatever your race, religion, sexuality, gender, language or disability.
- Have your health looked after.
- Get the most out of your school or college.

What is an advocate?

An advocate is a person who can help you say if you don't like something or if you don't agree with a decision that affects your life. Advocates are independent and confidential – they don't work for the council or children's services and they will not tell anyone what you say to them without your agreement (unless there is something that might cause harm to you or someone else).

An advocate can:

- Help you sort out a problem or worry.
- Listen to you and help you understand your rights.
- Help make sure you are treated fairly.
- Help you say what you think about things.
- Help make sure other people are listening to what you have to say.
- Help you sort out a problem the way you want it sorted.

The Children's Society fights for the hope and happiness of this country's young people when they are threatened by abuse, exploitation and neglect. We take inspiration from the courage and hope we see in young people every day. It fuels our belief that every young person deserves a good childhood.

We fight for hope by understanding young people's needs and providing local services that support them through their challenges. We also campaign tirelessly for the big social changes that will transform the well-being of young people, and strive to improve the lives of those who need hope most.

Driven by hope and working alongside young people and supporters, we will not rest until together we've created a society built for all children.

For referrals to our BCA service email:

BCA.referral@childrenssociety.org.uk

Tel: **0808 169 9954**

<https://forms.office.com/r/Ts4KV9T2qD>